

**FACT SHEET  
about  
MARYLAND TRAUMA PHYSICIAN SERVICES FUND**

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*What is the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund?*

In June 2003, Governor Robert Ehrlich signed Senate Bill 479, Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund ("Fund"). The Maryland Health Care Commission ("MHCC") and the Health Services Cost Review Commission ("HSCRC") are the designated state agencies responsible for the implementation of Senate Bill 479 and maintaining the funds collected for physician reimbursement.

The Fund will provide the following benefits to trauma physicians and trauma centers:

1. Reimbursement to trauma physicians for trauma services provided to patients without health insurance up to 100 percent of the Medicare rate for the Baltimore carrier locality;
2. Increased reimbursement rates to trauma physicians providing trauma care to Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) enrollees up to 100 percent of the Medicare rate for the Baltimore carrier locality;
3. Reimbursement to trauma centers for on-call stipends associated with maintaining trauma specific physicians; and
4. Allows trauma center physician stand-by costs to be included in the hospital's HSCRC recognized rate.

*What is the source of funding for the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund?*

The Fund is financed through a \$5 surcharge added to the 2-year vehicle registration renewal fees collected by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

*Who is eligible to receive payments from the Fund?*

Under this law, only certain trauma physician specialties are eligible to receive reimbursement for treating uninsured and Medicaid-enrolled trauma patients. S.B. 479 defines a trauma physician as a trauma surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, neurosurgeon, critical care physician and anesthesiologist as eligible for payment from the Fund. In addition, physicians practicing emergency medicine can receive reimbursement for trauma services provided to uninsured patients; however, the Maryland General Assembly capped funds allocated to emergency medicine doctors at \$250,000 annually.

*How will the Commission utilize the Maryland Trauma Registry in conjunction with the Fund?*

The Maryland Trauma Registry is a data base of information maintained by all trauma centers within Maryland. A trauma patient must be listed on the Trauma Registry administered by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). The Commission will utilize such information from the Registry as Patient Trauma Registry Number, Date of Admission, Date of Discharge from the acute care hospital or Date of Release from the emergency room, and diagnosis and/or exclusion codes in determining whether to reimburse for trauma services provided to trauma patients.

*How can I receive payment for care provided to uninsured patients?*

The law clearly defines an uninsured patient as someone without private health insurance (HMO, PPO, or indemnity), Medicare part B coverage, VA health benefits, military health benefits (TriCare & CHAMPUS), Worker's Compensation, or Medicaid (traditional and managed care).

Trauma physicians can obtain reimbursement for services provided to an uninsured patient if the practice has made a good faith effort to recover payment due for treatment. To obtain payment, trauma physicians and emergency room physician practices must submit a *Maryland Trauma Fund Semi-Annual Uncompensated Trauma Services Application*. Trauma physician can submit applications seeking payment for trauma services provided to uncompensated care patients on a semi-annual basis in January and July. Funds for uncompensated care will only be considered for physician practices that have exhausted their collection policies and procedures for services rendered.

*How can I receive payment for care provided to Medicaid-enrolled patients?*

For trauma patients receiving care after December 1, 2003, trauma services provided to Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) patients will be eligible for reimbursement at up to 100 percent of the Baltimore Facility Medicare rate. Eligible payments will be made directly by Medicaid, or the MCO through which the trauma physician participates. Medicaid has updated its provider manual to include the claims submission requirements for reimbursement of trauma services.

A copy of the Medicaid Billing Instructions for the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund is located on the MHCC Web site at [www.mhcc.state.md.us/trauma\\_fund/trauma.htm](http://www.mhcc.state.md.us/trauma_fund/trauma.htm). The instructions explain how trauma physicians can receive the enhanced reimbursement rate for trauma services provided to Medicaid recipients at designated trauma centers. Detailed billing instructions for the CMS-1500 form (or its electronic equivalent) to receive payment at the higher Medicare rate also are included. These instructions are for providers serving fee-for-service Medicaid patients as well as patients enrolled in a HealthChoice MCO. Currently, there are seven participating HealthChoice MCOs; AmeriGroup Maryland, Coventry Health Care, Helix Family Choice, Jai Medical Systems, Maryland Physicians Care, Priority Partners, and United Healthcare. Failure to comply with these instructions may lead to the denial of payment for eligible trauma services provided to trauma patients enrolled in the Medicaid Program.

If you have questions after reviewing the Medicaid Billing Instructions, please call:

**Maryland Medicaid**

|                   |                         |               |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Maryland Medicaid | Provider Relations Unit | (410)767-5503 |
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**HealthChoice MCOs**

|                          |                        |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| AmeriGroup Maryland      | Kathy Faber            | (410)981-4536          |
| Coventry Health Care     | Paula Disabatino       | (302)283-6651          |
| Helix Family Choice      | Claims Processing Unit | (410)261-3371          |
| Jai Medical Systems      | Tim Barrett            | (410)433-2200          |
| Maryland Physicians Care | Linda Dietsch          | (410)277-9710, ex 3919 |
| Priority Partners        | John Strube            | (410)424-4634          |
| United Healthcare        | Dawn Smith             | (410)540-5985          |

*Who should you contact for additional information on the Fund?*

Should you have additional questions on this matter, you may send an email to [Trauma@mhcc.state.md.us](mailto:Trauma@mhcc.state.md.us) or contact William D. Chan, Health Policy Analyst, at (410)764-3374.